



February 7, 2017

2017 FEB 14 A 11:13  
EASTERN STATES OFFICE

**Via [protest must either be faxed to 202-912-7798 or postmarked by Feb. 13]**

Karen Mouritsen  
State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States Office  
20 M Street SE, Suite 950  
Washington, D.C. 20003

***Re: Protest of the March 23, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest***

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned March 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe, Noble, and Washington Counties, Ohio (DOI-BLM-Eastern States-0030-2016-0002-EA) ("EA"), pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. I formally protest the inclusion of each of the 21 parcels, covering 1,186 acres in the Wayne National Forest's Marietta Unit in Monroe County, Ohio:

Parcel #: ES-001-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058226 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-002-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058227 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-003-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058228 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-004-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058229 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-005-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058230 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-006-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058231 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-007-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058232 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-008-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058233 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-009-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058234 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-010-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058235 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-011-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058236 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-012-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058237 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-015-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058240 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-018-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058243 ACQ

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Parcel #: ES-020-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058249 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-022-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058251 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-023-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058252 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-025-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058254 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-026-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058255 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-027-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058256 ACQ
Parcel #: ES-028-03/2017	BLM Serial #: OHES 058257 ACQ

## **PROTEST**

### **I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests**

This Protest is filed on behalf of:

Elizabeth Bolen

134 E Royal Forest Blvd

Columbus, OH 43214

\*(Please do not make my contact information public)

My interest in the lease/sale of this land is three-fold:

1. I grew up in Marietta, Ohio and still have family that live there. I am concerned about dangerous frack waste water leaking into private water wells or the Ohio River and contaminating drinking water for those living in the area, including my family members.
2. The Forest is for public use. I visit Marietta about once a month (sometimes more) and I look forward to using Wayne National Forest when I am there. My sister and I like to hike in Wayne and occasionally kayak or canoe.
3. Methane gas leaked by fracking wells is very dangerous for the climate. Methane gas is at least 86X more heat sequestering than CO2. This can have dramatic effects on our ozone and planet.

### **II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:**

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

1. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not completed. This is Ohio's only National Forest and we owe it to all Ohioans who use the forest, to those who could be affected by contaminated drinking water and to the animal species that live there, to thoroughly consider the implications that fracking could have.

2. The Environmental Assessment (EA) that was completed was based on outdated forest laws that were created before horizontal hydraulic fracturing existed in the area. Rushing a decision to horizontal frack in a National Forest, without thoughtful consideration, should not be allowed.
3. There was one public meeting held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Marietta, Ohio before the 2016-2017 auctions began. I have talked with Marietta residents. Many did not know about this meeting, did not have a chance to make their opinions heard and are now outraged that the sale/lease of their public forest land is taking place. There should have been more outreach to the entire community, not just private land owners near Wayne, to inform them of such a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Bolen". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Elizabeth Bolen